ACTON, HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS,) July 25th, 1870.

DEAR SIR: Having received many letters from the old Palmetto State, making enquiries about this country, I have concluded to write you a letter, which will show only a faint outline of North-west Texas, as it appears to me. In the course of this letter I shall answer some questions in regard to climate, soil, water, health, agriculture, stock raising and so on, without much respect for any system, order or rules of rhetoric.

A glance at the map will show that Acton. or Commanche Peak, near the centre of Hood County, is nearly on the same degree of latitude with Pocataligo, S. C., or tracing westward the 32 parallell, it will be found a little further South than Montgomery, Ala., Jackson, Miss., and Shreveport, La. As for its longitude West, it is far enough-say 1000 miles from Walhalla, measuring the wagon route by Helena, on the Mississippi river.

This country is different in climate, soil &c., from the points above mentioned, and this difference is not easily shown on paper. Suffice it to say the soil is generally richer, climate more variable, the spring and well water as good, and the health, generally speaking, better. Last week we had heat of the sun sufficient to scorch the grass, vines in the gardens, and the corn blades in some fields that had not been well cultivated. Yesterday and to day the wind has been from the North, the air cool, the weather rainy enough to insure a full crop of corn and increase the number of squares on the cotton stalk. The prairie grass has already revived, and looks as fresh and green as it did in May It is a remarkable fact that the mesquite grass, during the hottest days of summer, will wilt and turn yellow as ripe wheat, and then if a rain falls sufficient to wet the roots it will soon revive, and look green and fresh again. It is thought to be better grazing in this cured condition than when green. the spring, say from the 15th of March till the middle of June, the weather is truly delightful. A gentle breeze from the South all the time, just cool enough to be pleasant, with the prairie covered with its grasses and flowers, stock shedding their winter coats and growing fat and plump around the wheat fields, is almost enough to make man go wild as well as beast. A "greeny from the States" might mistake a stock man for a wild one, if he were to meet him suddenly in the prairie and see his long beard, perhaps grey, his raw hide saddle, raw hide bridle, Mexican hat, bell spurs and a brace of Colt's heavy pistols. He is not after "lawlessness and crime"-a stercotyped radical phrasehe is only gathering his stock.

Summer begins about the 20th of June. with hot sunshine, occasionally a rainy day, and then several dry ones, with a stiff breeze from the South, which enables the prairie farmers to labor in comfort.

As autumn approaches the picture begins to fade. A torch put to the prairie grass would destroy it all till a road or creek stops the progress of the fire. Prairie stock remains fat until about the last of December, when winter begins in earnest. Perhaps without a quarter of an hour's notice, the elements northward appears cloudy, and a fresh, braeing breeze strikes you from the direction of the cloud, presently another puff a little stronger, and so on until one continuous stream of cold air passes you with all the regularity of a rapid stream of water. This wind continues for 12, 24 or 36 hours, and sometimes brings a little rain, snow or sleet. This wind ceases more gradually than it be gius, requiring usually a half day to subside. It is bracing and healthful to man, but soon changes the lively appearance of prairie stock, especially if the winds come more than once a week, and includes rain, snow or sleet .-These North winds recur with variable severity until towards the middle or last of March. this time horses and cattle-have got down on the other extreme from what they were in May. Some old mares and cows, some late colts and calves, die about "the rising of grass." A protracted north or east rain of several days, towards the last of March, is too severe for the poorest of the stock-rather a gloomy season for the stock man to ride in the prairie and see his old mare down, "on the lift," her poor calf recling about her—an old cow in the bog, her yearling with its spine howed up and scarcely able to blait. "Well," pide did last winter.'

risked in the way of farming. The wheat crops paid well during those dry years, better than they have since, unless I except the past two years, but the yield per acre compares favorably with the dry years of 1860 to 1864. The yield per acre, last year and this spring, ranges from 12 to 27 bushels per the Trinity counties for what little corn was used/ During the last five years, a surplus of corn has been made in the county. The occasionally, for the sake of down freight .--

ty, 80 to 40 miles from their farms, the nearest gin at that time. The crop of '69 was ginned at home, there being three gins running in the neighborhood of Acton-one of them by water and the others by horse power. I don't remember to have seen a single bale '66. Last winter more than 100 bales passed through Acton, en route for Calvert Sta-5,000 pounds, drawn by a dozen cattle. Cotton is planted about the 1st of April, in beds 31 to 4 feet apart, barred off as soon as it plowed, and soraped, until the 1st of July, towards the Ist of September, when he begins to pick and pen, and try to hire some pack and sweat, until the north winds blow three fourths of a bale, and in some river fields, if it is well gathered, it will reach one bale to the acre. I am counting now according to the last two crops. I don't pretend to say that you can do so next year .-"There is many a slip betwixt the oup and the lip," especially in Texas.

Rye grows well, not much sown, worth \$1 per bushel. Oats, also, do very well, when sown, worth 50 cents. Sweet potatoes have been doing very well on the Brazos valley land, usually worth, at digging time, 75 cents. Irish potatoes do as well as you would have if you need them. Every farmer plants sorghum, it will grow, wet or dry. Enough is
made up and stored away in whiskey barrels

to the manner in which government machinery runs, are opposed to "lawlessness and
made up and stored away in whiskey barrels

crime" and are in favor of believing that a

in the roof that shelters my log cabin home,
notify you can look out a location that shelt for family use, some is cut and stacked for cattle in the winter and the hogs turned in | man. on the field till it is all "hogged down."

I omitted to state that this a healthy country-its hills and valleys, ridges, rocky bluffs and rapid running streams of limestone, water clear as crystal-couldn't be otherwise. We had chills and billious faver in 1867, since then the country has been as healthy as in the last decade that no trace of it can be yours ever was. I am told the country was seen except occasionally a dozen old ewes in quite healthy prior to the year 1866. That a lot, close by some farm house. Sheep year had a pretty good epidemic of chills and when kept in large herds are liable to get a fever, but not so bad as 67. This is my disease called "seab," which soon kills them fourth summer here, and I am happy to say I have not been sick a single day. Many others can say the same. Some cases, old rusty ones too, of Arkansas chills, are imported, and Texas charged with the fault. I sickly as Arkansas or Florida. If they are bors has been making peculiar efforts to sell not they ought to be, counting the affinity a large herd for a cow pony. I suppose a that malaria has for black guats, musquito's, hundred head could be bought for a pony of water melons and big cotton, grown on low | that kind rich soil. North western Texas, from Cooke County down to Bosque, and from Collins out West as far as you please, is as rich a country as our glorious Union affords, with as small amount of sickness. If you doubt this, come and see. Farming implements of all kinds, are sold here by the .aerchants .-A one-horse turning plow, white onk stock, Avery's patent, is worth \$7. Two-horse plow, \$10 to \$12. Light Two-horse wagons, from St. Louis shop, \$110 to \$120; harness, bow frame and sheets \$140 to \$160.

We have as fine peaches as any country.
Apples have not been tried yet satisfactorily. Several thousands scions were put out this Several thousands seions were put out this latter is as good here as any where, so far as spring, they look well now. One tree in the it goes, and it goes to over 90 these times: settlement, probably a volunteer, had sixteen large apples on it last summer They were very large and of fine flavor. It is a thrifty looking young tree now. Wild grapes are abundant. No vinegards have been tried above Waco.

Horses stand next to farming according, to my judgement, but many men like the cow busithe stock men. I give horses the preference, probably because the stealage is not so heavy among them as it is with cattle. Two kinds of horses are raised in Texas. The spanish, he'll say, "I can't do anything for you, you never cracked a grain of corn in your life, and if I could keep you up you would get down again and die, just as old blaze or old in habits. Marcs of this stock 14 hands high per, Vanzandt, Kaufman, Dallis, Farrant, are crossed with large American horses, pro-Farming received but little attention this far West, until the close of the war. Up to that time the country had been subject to drouths after the middle of May, and the sowing and harvesting of wheat was all that was righted in the way of ferming. The wheat in the grazing portions of the state. They are too small for harness, and are used principles of the Brazos probatished in the way of ferming. The wheat is the for driving a stack of the Trinity at Fork Worth, 33 are too small for harness, and are used principles of the Brazos probatished in the way of ferming. The wheat is the way of ferming a girelly for driving a stack of the Trinity at Fork Worth, 33 are too small for harness, and are used principles of the Brazos probatished in the way of ferming. ing and harvesting of wheat was all that was are too small for harness, and are used prin-risked in the way of farming. The wheat crops paid well during those dry years, bet-market for the sale of them is found west of incorporated, I am informed, with John C.

1860. Stock cattle cannot be bought for less than \$5 per head. A good wilk cow, gentle, is worth \$12; work steers \$40 to \$50 per yoke Corn meal which is worth here 75 cents, at land. This is now almost impossible. Good Bremond, the present terminus of the Central land with improvements is not offered at any Railroad, it is worth \$1.25 per bushol. Corn is planted between the 1st of March and 10th of April. Some have no preparation of the land, simply running off and planting in the drill: After the corn is up and has about four blades, it is run round with two furrows, that is four to the middle. This being dought the corn is nearly knee high, and laying by begins by plowing out the middles entirely: Gorn is about all "laid'hy" before the 1st of June, Other farmers do batter than this, caspecially, the "old State folks"—the "greenies from the States"—some of whom liave no more sense than to break their land well before planting, and oultivate well until towards this middle of June. The first class of planting and cultivate well until towards the corn is used to the corn is up and has about the word ever saw" on the price of the same class is not offered this year. The public domain of Texas is the middle of June. The first class of planting middle of June of the same class is not offered this year. The public depth is included to a man of family if he actually lives on the land \$2.00 middle of June of the same class is not offered this year. The public hand flords timber of the price middle of June of the same class is not offered this year. The seed of the same class is not offered this year. The seed of the same class is not offered this year. The seed of the same class is not offered this year. The best of t Railroad, it is worth \$1.25 per bushel. Corn price. Good river land, without improvement, is planted between the 1st of March and 10th is selling at \$4 to \$5 per age; this includes

years, 18 to 30 bushels per acre. The green- married man can pre-empt 80 acres on the year is quite flattering now, but worms someties considerably more, say 80 to 45 bushels. same condition. I am not aware of any good times destroy the crop in August and Sep-Corn 50 cents. Cotton was not tried as a land east of the Bazos that is not already tember. You see the acorn crop is subject crop in this county until 1867. The small owned by private parties. The state has a to the Texas adage as well as Railroads. number of men who risked cotton that year few millions of acres, west of the Brazos that had to haul it to Alverado, in Johnson cound be pre empted if "greenies" were disposed to live among the Camanches. These ing" for deer is not practiced much now. I latter have had control of most of the country have killed 13 in four winters by "driving," west of the river since the war. U.S. troops have been posted at the forts 100 to 150 miles west of here for the purpose, so called, of protecting the frontier. The Indians steal of cotton in the county during the winter of the horses from the posts and ride them in in the mountains above Walhalla, i.e., wild this way and steal more. Seven Camanches were killed in Erath County west, of this, last hundred yards off. The antelope is still with iion, on the Central Railroad, distant 140 fall, they were armed with spencer rifles and miles. Cotton is carried to market on "prarie colts pistols. They used their arrows with schooners," that is wagous that will bear up Better effect in this engagement than they did dozen live ones in this neighborhood-nary their "iron shooting tools." One young dead one. I am told that my Rucker's Creek man of our side was mortally wounded by an neighbors four miles west of Acton had a arrow that passed through his chest. Our bear chase last week-let him get away-first comes up, and then thinned, and hoed, and Legislature (so called) has passed an act pro- one I have heard of. We have wolves in viding for the better protection of the frontier abundance, also wild cats. The wolf is someunless the weather gets too hot sooner. The It authorizes 20 companies of mounted ran- times chased. It requires a second relief planter can then rest, if he chooses to, until gers to be well equipped and raised in so of hounds and horses to overtake a large many frontier counties. Hood, among the loafer wolf. I have been in one fox chase. rest, is entitled to one, but the trouble is now Chaught him in 31 hours. Heavy exercise new comer to help him to pick and pen and to get a radical in the county mean enough for horses, but it matters not so much pack and sweat, until the north winds blow him and his unpicked cotton out of the field—away late—say about Christmas. If he has had a governor too did you? Could you cultivated prarie or high post oak sandy land, spare us a radical suitable to command a comhe can show a half bale to the acre. Texas bales weigh not less than 500 pounds. If he has cultivated Brazos valley land, he has pany of rangers. If you can you shall have town. Hood was a bad name, Brigadier Gen.

state between the ages of 18 and 45, to be Granberry is changed to Rubyville, in honor worken up into divisions, bridades &c., of of the distinguished Senator (colored, though,) millitia, State guards and State police. Does this remind you of those gentlemen that governed Arkansas and Tennessee with militia a year or two ago? Brownlow and Clayton, I believe, were their names. The channel I am drifting to now might lead to the politics of Texas. I shall change my steps after tel- to you that I am well pleased with this counling you that a large majority of the citizens | try. Permanently located, so far as I know. them. I could spare you a few bushels gratis of Texas are, in my opinion, bitterly opposed to the manner in which government machine-ry runs, are opposed to "lawlessness and emigrate to it, but will offer your an interest southern white man is as good as any other until you can look out a location that suits

I neglected to say any thing about sheep when speaking of stock. The "sheep fever" was epidemic in this section about the commencement of "the late unpleasantness."-Some purchases were made at \$5 per head ten years ago. The fever has abated so much taxes." out to so small a bunch that they will not justify close attention; then the wolves take the place of seab, and answer as well. I never saw a sheep sold in Texas, but suppose they could be bought, whenever found, at \$1 50 have no doubt that portions of Texas are as per head. Goats flourish. One of my neigh-

Pine lumber is worth \$3 per hundred feet this year-higher than ever before. Cypress shingles at Bremond, \$6.50 per thousand, they are broad and many of them have to be split in half, so that out of a 1,000 you would make about 1250 of proper width. They are worth, delivered here, \$9 per thousand.

Liverpool salt at Bremoud, \$3 to \$4 per sack. Here it is worth \$7. Coffee here, 25 cents. Sugar, brown 15 to 18 cents, crushed 20 cents. Calico, good, 10 to 12½. Good brogan shoes \$1.75. Castings about 10 cents. Other goods in proportion. Specie is always meant when currency is not specified. The

The prevailing religious sects in northwest Texas are Methodists, Bapti t and Cumberland Presbyterians. Schools are numerous, and well attended. The Acton Institute is in a flourishing condition at this time. We have a school here all the time, and preaching every Sunday. These institutions are not out of place. The standard of refined morals is not so high as desirable. We have, howness better. Horses and cattle pay 30 per is not so high as desirable. We have, howent per annum on capital invested. So say ever, a majority of good men, honest and hose pitable, something on the order of your hardy

mountaineers. You are familiar with their pure undefield hospitality. The Southern Pacific Railread, necording per, Vanzandt, Kaufman, Dallis, Farrant, Parker, Palo Pinto, Jack, Young, Throck the Brazos, among the cow men, hence the Fremont, at the helm. He may do well as a me "cow pony." Stock horses of this half Railroad man, for any other purpose we can anish breed can be bought for \$20 per head. find no use for him. This road is completed on the manner in which the seed is put in.
Some men having interest, perhaps, in stock, put their wheat on the ground carelessly, and scratch it in wet or dry, weedy or not, as they find the land at seeding time. It might approximate the real truth nearer, to put the minimum yield per acre, in this county, for the last two crops at 8 or 10 bushels. Wheat is worth \$1.25 per bushel; flour, \$5.00 per heads.

Cattle as well as horses are commendated.

Cattle as well as horses are commendated from Marshall out to Hallyille, where the company have shops, and a few hands grading. There is no time set for the roll to reach the Brazos. Trains to cross the Brazos in the truth nearer, to put the horse in the state, that any body knows of. There are a few heavily musseled pony horses of fine form harshall out to Hallyille, where the company have shops, and a few hands grading. There is no time set for the roll to reach the Brazos. Trains to cross the Brazos in the training of this kind is worth \$75 to \$100. There is no time set for the roll to company have shops, and a few hands grading. There is no time set for the roll to company have shops, and a few hands grading. There is no time set for the roll to reach the Brazos. Trains to cross the Brazos in the training of this kind is worth \$75 to \$100. There is no time set for the roll to empany have shops, and a few hands grading. There is no time set for the roll to company have shops, and a few hands grading. There is no time set for the roll to reach the Brazos. Trains to cross the Brazos in the training of this kind is worth \$75 to \$100. There is no time set for the roll to reach the Brazos. Trains to cross the Brazos in the state, the provided has been proved by the worth and the provided has been provided has a state of the roll to Hallyille, where the company have shops, and a few hands grading. The company have shops, and a few hands grading. The company have shops, and a few hands grading. The company have shops, and a few hands grading. The company have shops, and i hachie, Dallas, McKinny and Sherman, all believed that they are intended for circulation want it to run through their Court Houses. in the South. Look out for them. it will escape being run over by at least fifty miles. We are not earing much about Railroads any way, so long as Praire Schooners number of hogs has increased from year to year, until now the surplus corn could be converted into pork, which in the shape of bacon and lard can be shipped with greater facility than corn. The mill at Acton is shipping correctionally for the sake of down facility. were three years ago. Stock menare disposed to shift off horses and cattle for good farming acorn prospects this year in the postock regions. Some old graziers (this name is in land. This is now almost impossible. Good land with improvements is not offered at any price. Good riverland, without improvement, is selling at \$4 to \$5 per acre; this includes the rocky bluffs that border on the river valley, and back of the bluffs as much high land with what you would call very shabby timber, if, indeed, the high land affords timber at all.

ters have averaged, during the last three years and is a citizen of the state. An un- about every third year. The prospect this

have killed 13 in four winters by "driving," principally. I have my first turkey to fire at yet. They are in greater abundance than deer-their wildness in the same proportion. A deer is about as wild here as you find them enough to start when he scents a man several us, on the highest prairies, looking out for something to run from. I have seen about a where horses grow spontaneously. The cat can be overtaken in an hour by a good pack. The Legislature has changed the names of our Hood County, and Granberry, the County Granberry, a bad one too, so the bill readsthe latter was killed in the battle of Franklin, Our governor, Mr. Davis, is quite busy Tennessee. The new County name is Davis. now in organizing his military, consisting Ought to be in full. Ed. J. Some greeny principally of "all able bodied men in the might mistake it for another Davis, (Jeff) from down about Galveston, known as the Hon. Mr. Ruby. Distinguished probably for gallant and meretorious conduct in numerous hen houses and melon patches. I have to wash my hands, but "let us have peace." I must close this erratic letter by stating

I am not disposed to overrate the country you. I mean, if you do come, of your own will and accord. I might write on indefinitely, but could give you no exact account of the country. I esteem it a good one now, but must endorse the trite Texas saying ; "Nothing is certain in Texas but death and in Texas ... Truly yours, J. N. D.

INVESTMENTS IN CONFEDERAL BONDS.

The Raleigh (N. C.) Standard says: We learn that the decision of Chief Justice Chase in a case lately depending before him (Head and others vs. Tally administrator,) touching investments made by administrators, guardians, etc., in bonds of the late Confederate States, was that where an administrator purchased such securities directly from the insurgent government, through one of its officers, with the funds of his beneficiary, he he must be held responsible for the amount so invested. Such a transaction, directly furnishing money to the insurgents to carry on the war against the United States.

The Chief Justice intimated no opinion as to what would be the law in case a person noting in a fiduciary capacity invested trust funds bona fide in Confederate securities, purchased, not from the Confederate Govern ment, but in open market without any intent to aid the rebellion.

We make this explanation because the simple announcement of the decission of Chief Justice Chase, in the case of Head vs. Tally, administrator, might cause the souls of administrators, etc., acting as such during the late war, to quake within them.

AT A letter from South Carolina, re cently received at Washington, states that RANGES & HEATING STOVES. Governor Scott has commenced arming the colored militia, and has five companies already drilled and armed in Richland county. Three companies of whites were formed, but only one was allowed arms, the other two being flatly rejected. The letter adds that there is an evident intention to repeat the North Carolina trouble in South Carolina. In that event, the best advice we can give our South Carolina friends, is to follow the example of the people of North Carolina in her recent election, and "repeat" the Conservative victory so gallantly won on that occasion.

rea. Congressman Butler, of Tennessce, has some hard charges to answer: first, forgery, by which he absorbed other people's pensions; second, robbing the mails, by which the pensioners received no satisfaction from the department as to why their pensions were not paid, and third, perjury, in taking the iron-clad oath to practice before the Court of Claims, when, at a subsequent date, an Act removing disabilities, was found necessary in his case, before he could take his seat. Mr. Butler is one of the most reliable Republicans

The Charleston News of the 12th affirms that Governor Scott agreed to pay Land Commissioner Leslie, as the price of his resignation, money and securities amounting to nearly; 7,000, and dares Governor Scott to deny the statement.

sor A new and dangerous counterfeit fifty cent note, with the vignette of Lincoln, has been put in circulation in New York, but it is





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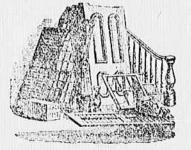
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Sept. 13, 1869

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the CHRONICLE & SENTINEL.

Augusta, Ga.

June 10, 1870 84

ENTERTAINMENT,

Near Railroad Depot

THE undersigned has open, for the reception of permanent and transients cust m, a COMFORTABLE HOUSE, at the Depot of the Blue Ridge Railroad, near Walhalla. S. C. His table is supplied with the best the country affords, and avery attention given to guests. The salubrious climate, with the fine mountain scenery of this region, makes it very desirable, pleasant and attractive to visitors. Charges moderate. A call is solicited. H. M. PHINNEY.